

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pressure sensor utilizing a pressure sensor house assembly which contains a reference cavity ~~and a thermally activatable getter placed therein~~, the method comprising the steps of:

placing a thermally activatable getter in the pressure sensor house assembly so that the thermally activatable getter has a free surface open to the exterior;

providing a vacuum in the reference cavity;

then moving a solid body connected to a heat source from a position exterior of the reference cavity into direct mechanical contact with said free surface of the getter that is open to the exterior;

thereupon activating, for a predetermined period of time, the heat source to conduct heat from the heat source through the solid body to the getter for a predetermined period of time in order to activate the getter; and

finally removing the heat source from being connected to the solid body.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein, in the step of activating the heat source, heat is also conducted to seal the pressure sensor house assembly with the solid body.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein, in the direct mechanical contact of the solid body with said surface of the getter is elastic, the getter is allowed to move elastically.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the pressure sensor house assembly comprises an outside connection which can be closed channel from the reference cavity to a recess in which the getter is placed and wherein:

in the step of providing a vacuum, air is pumped out of the reference cavity via the outside connection channel;

in the step of moving the solid body, the solid body is moved to be located at the outside connection acting opening of the recess in order to act as a lid closing the connection channel;

and

in the step of activating the heat source and conducting heat to the solid body, heat is also conducted to seal the solid body to the outside connection walls of the recess, thereby sealing the pressure sensor house assembly and the reference cavity from the exterior.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, comprising the further steps of:

producing the pressure sensor house assembly from substantially ceramic material having the reference cavity arranged therein and a single closing channel from a main portion of the reference cavity to a mouth at the outside;

pumping air out of a room containing the pressure sensor house assembly, so that a vacuum is obtained therein and in the reference cavity;

arranging a glass joint material on a closing lid, the glass joint material being capable of being thermally activated;

heating the closing lid and placing the closing lid over the mouth of the closing channel;

and

allowing the closing lid to cool.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pressure sensor comprising a pressure sensor house assembly which contains a reference cavity, in which a vacuum exists, and furthermore comprising a getter capable of being thermally activated, the method comprising first activating the getter by directly contacting the getter with an exterior heated solid body that is for only a predetermined period of time heated via a heat source, conducting so that heat is conducted from the exterior heated solid body, maintaining the exterior heated body in direct contact with the getter for a predetermined period of time, and removing the heat source and sealing the pressure sensor house assembly with the exterior heated body to the getter and so that also the pressure sensor house assembly is sealed with the exterior solid body.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pressure sensor comprising a pressure sensor house assembly containing a reference cavity, in which ~~a vacuum exists, and furthermore comprising a~~ getter is located which is capable of being thermally activated and ~~an~~ which has a single outside connection which can be closed, the method comprising first pumping, through the outside connection, air out of the reference cavity to achieve a vacuum in the reference cavity, then closing the outside connection with a lid, and finally activating the getter by directly conducting heat ~~via~~ only from the lid ~~and by maintaining the heated lid in direct contact with~~ to the getter for a predetermined period of time.

34. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein, in the step of placing a thermally activatable getter in the pressure sensor house assembly, the thermally activatable getter is placed in a recess open to the exterior and connected to the reference cavity.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein, in placing the thermally activatable getter in the recess, the getter is placed to come in contact with a spring located at a bottom of the recess.

36. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein, before the step of moving the solid body, a sealing adhesive which is capable of being thermally activated is applied to the solid body in order to attach and seal the solid body to the pressure sensor house assembly.

37. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein, in the step of moving the solid body, the solid body is moved to come in direct mechanical contact only at flat surface with said free surface of the getter.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the exterior solid body is heated by laser radiation or IR-radiation.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein, in the direct contact of the exterior solid body with the getter, the getter is allowed to move elastically.

40. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein, in the direct contact of the exterior solid body with the getter, the getter is contacted at a only flat surface with a flat surface of the exterior solid body.

41. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein, in the step of activating the getter, the exterior solid body is releasably attached to a heating probe, the heating probe released from the exterior solid body after said predetermined period of time.

42. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein, in the step of closing the outside connection, the lid is releasably attached to a heating probe, the lid released from the heating probe after the step of activating the getter.

43. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein, in the step of closing the outside connection, the lid is moved to come in direct mechanical contact with a surface of the getter.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein, in the direct mechanical contact of the lid with a surface of the getter, the getter is allowed to move elastically.

45. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the lid during the predetermined period of time is heated by laser radiation or IR-radiation.

46. (New) The method of claim 33 comprising the additional step of applying, before the step of closing the outside connection with the lid, a sealing adhesive which is capable of being thermally activated to the lid in order to attach and seal the lid to the pressure sensor house assembly.